

was equipped with two torpedo tubes and ten 4.1-inch and fourteen guns of smaller calibre. She had a speed of 23 knots and carried a crew of 286 men.

Santiago, Chile, Dec. 9.—The reports received here of the sinking of the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig by British warships off the Falkland Islands say that two other German cruisers engaged in the battle were badly damaged.

British Sea Power as Sure as Ever, It Is Declared

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Dec. 10.—"The Daily News" in an editorial to-day on the naval battle Tuesday off the Falkland Islands, says:

"There will be the deepest satisfaction throughout the country at the news. The destruction of these ships, quite apart from the possible destruction of their companions, now being pursued, balances, with some margin, the credit side, however much more than the loss of the Good Hope and the Monmouth. There is more in it than the grim satisfaction of wiping out a debt. The Pacific defeat rankled in the minds of Englishmen much more than they cared to express. Not less serious, it shook the British naval prestige with neutral nations much more heavily than we cared to confess. That is over and done with.

Official Report Claims They Have Firm Hold on New Positions.

ON OFFENSIVE FROM ALSACE TO THE SEA

Germans Say Heavy Losses Were Inflicted on Enemy in Nancy and Argonne Regions.

London, Dec. 9.—The withdrawal of German troops from the west to strengthen their armies in the east has enabled the Allies to resume the initiative along the front reaching from the Swiss border to the North Sea, and while they have not made any marked advance they have been able, according to official announcement, to organize and consolidate the positions won in the last few days. This naturally has not been done without opposition from the Germans, who claim to have inflicted heavy losses on the French, particularly in the Argonne and north of Nancy.

Sharp fighting along the Flanders battle front, from the sea to the River Lys, is indicated by official and unofficial reports. The French War Office mentions official fighting in that region, the French War Office reports, received by wireless from Berlin, contains nothing about operations in Flanders.

To-night the French War Office reports the advance before Pavilliere (Department of the Somme) and a German attack upon Tracy la Val (Department of the Oise), which was repulsed.

Gains along the Aisne and the Meuse and in the Argonne are also claimed by the French. As usual, the French and German reports about operations in the Argonne are entirely contradictory, both claiming gains, and the Germans asserting that the French were repulsed with heavy losses.

Colonel E. D. Swinton, the British eyewitness on the battlefield in France and Belgium, thus sums up the situation:

"Of major tactical operations by the British forces there recently has been an entire absence; nor for some weeks has any strategic advantage been won in a geographical sense, since there has been no advance and no gain in ground."

He adds, however, that while there has been no advance by the Allies the British have been a constant "strategic progress, in that time is working on their side."

The remainder of the account relates to the lighter incidents at the front, emphasizing particularly the good feeling which exists between the British and the French soldiers and the French people.

"There could be no more cordial relations," the British observer writes. "There never has been any sort of friction. This appears to be all the more remarkable when it is remembered that some thousands of men are thrown together and that wine is the common drink of the country."

It is impossible to believe, the correspondent says, that there is anything fortuitous in the arrival of the British squadron on the scene in the neighborhood of Cape Horn observed his movements and wireless to the British patrolling squadron in time for it to intercept.

"The site of the battle," the correspondent says, "the British naval victory avenges the loss of Admiral Craddock and his gallant comrades, and at the same time it is the most important of the war vessels that Germany has had at large. It is a dramatic act of retribution and indicates that when the great strategic battle is fought the British ships will be found, but it has every sign of being the result of a bold and thorough disposition on the part of the Admiralty. The presence of Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee, who for a month ago held the position of chief of staff, and the completeness of the destruction of the enemy are most significant circumstances."

Cruisers Might Have Been Captured Earlier in War

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Sydney, N. S. W., Dec. 9.—Some discussion has taken place both here and in New Zealand regarding the escape of the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in the early stages of the war. The suggestion has been made that activities were diverted from attempts to capture these and other German vessels which were in the Pacific with a view to seizing Samoa and other German possessions, and that which could have been captured at any time.

W. Massey, Minister of New Zealand, and J. Allen, Minister of Defence, both state that it is, of course, a fact, that the whole operations were under the control of the Admiralty. They add that the Admiralty was not aware of the value of the services of the Australian navy the New Zealand government did not attempt to expedite in any way the seizure of Apla.

GERMANY TO OFFER TRENT TO ITALY?

Rome Expects Von Buelow to Make Austrian Province the Price of Neutrality.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Rome, Dec. 9.—"Il Messaggero," discussing Prince von Buelow's arrival next week, alludes to a rumor that he will offer Italy Trent as the price of her neutrality. The newspaper remarks that Trent, even if Austria would cede it, is not enough, for it would not secure Italy's position in the Adriatic. To bind ourselves to Germany," it concludes, "would be to pay for her blunders in this disastrous war. Italy's armed intervention is only a question of time."

Many Helpful Suggestions in Selecting Your Gift Books

NEXT SATURDAY IN THE TRIBUNE

KAISER COUNTS ON GERMAN NERVE.

Berlin, Dec. 9.—There is published here to-day a speech made by Emperor William at one of the army camps, composed of Germans and Austrians, which he visited on his recent trip to the Eastern front.

"You are fighting for a just cause, for liberty, for the right to exist as a nation, and for a future of prolonged peace," said the Emperor. "Even though the war should last for a long time, we shall not allow the enemy to have a moment's quiet."

"We shall continue to fight with success as heretofore, for Heaven is on our side. With God we shall achieve a prolonged peace, for our nerves are stronger than those of our enemy."

WILSON SPOKESMAN ADMITS NAVY NEEDS

Representative Sherley Before Southern Society Shows Weak Spots.

Representative Swager Sherley, of Kentucky, chairman of the Committee on Fortifications, discussed national defense in speaking at the twenty-ninth annual dinner of the New York Southern Society at the Waldorf last night. Mr. Sherley attempted to make out a clean slate for present defense conditions, particularly in the navy, but from admissions and figures and statistics he presented during his speech, it was evident that even he realized the present state of unpreparedness to a noticeable degree.

He said that one point he desired to make clear was that the navy was not inefficient, nor weak, and that statements to the contrary were unfounded. Then he proceeded to point out some of the deficiencies in naval equipment. He frankly admitted that the navy was in a state of "retardation," and that the navy needed, remedying. He considered that an increase of 25,000 men to the standing army would not be too many.

Mr. Sherley started out by saying that there was no mystery about present conditions of defense, and that it was an easy matter for any one to get all the facts which he desired to get them to serve their purpose, he said.

"The purpose of coast defenses," he said, "are not to prevent the landing of an enemy anywhere upon our shores, but to prevent the use of great naval harbors as naval bases by the enemy's fleet. We have every gun mounted that has ever been asked for at every place to be fortified, with the exception of a few in the Chesapeake, where the land has recently been acquired, and the defenses of Los Angeles, where work is in progress, and certain minor batteries at San Diego."

We have complete control of the coast. We have almost entirely completed the Philippine island defenses. We are very rapidly completing the Panama defenses.

Referring to the continental defenses of the United States he said there were still some auxiliaries to supply, but that they were in splendid condition at the present time.

"The ammunition desired is not all supplied," he said, "but on the basis of the need for all the guns we have over 75 per cent. The maximum limit desired is a supply sufficient for two hours' continuous firing of half the guns in the United States, the theory being that we will not be threatened all along both coast lines at any one time. It is possible to approach in the rear future a condition where it will be thought justifiable to either place some additional guns at some of the fortifications of the 14 or 16 inch caliber, and some of the most modern 12-inch mortars."

"It is possible that it may be thought desirable to change in the carriage of the guns, to increase their elevation, to alter the range, to increase the range, but I do not believe there is any responsible officer to-day who would advocate any radical change in the fortifications at either the coast or inland. It is the principal points in the United States."

Referring to the army, Mr. Sherley said that we had personal equipment for more than 600,000 men. The cavalry equipment was nearly complete, models, but serviceable, he said. Conditions relative to the field artillery were by no means satisfactory, as indicated by that of other departments.

"We have a total of 215 batteries," he said, "or more than two-thirds of the number of guns required for an army of 600,000. It is a large number, but it is not sufficient. The annual report, estimated the number of guns as needed to be 2,834, or about 700 batteries, but the uniform testimony of all officers of the army here on this subject has been as I have indicated."

"The ammunition for these guns, which are of various calibre, is, as I regret to say, not all supplied in any form," he said. "I am not saying that I am safe in saying that we could within a year make 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition. This would supply the need, but it is not sufficient for the guns when they take the field, but it would not give any additional reserve to that which would be with or practically immediately available to the guns."

The other speakers were Thomas W. Gregory, Attorney General of the United States; George W. Wickersham, former Attorney General, and John W. Williams, Controller of the Currency. Mr. Williams advocated the total disenfranchisement of the negro as a solution of the negro problem. His remarks on this subject were received without applause. Mr. Wickersham made a vigorous reply to the suggestion of such a policy, saying that the problem never could be solved by taking away the right of a voice in the government of 10,000,000 American citizens.

His remarks were loudly applauded. W. W. Fuller, president of the society, presided. A toast was drunk, standing, to Miss Mary Lee, the only surviving child of General Robert E. Lee, who occupied a box.

COUNT FESTETICS KILLED IN BATTLE

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Dec. 9.—Count George Festetics is reported to have been killed in the war in Galicia. Count Festetics was well known in London society, and was attached for some time to the Austro-Hungarian Embassy here.

BLACK SEA MINED; NEUTRALS WARNED

London, Dec. 10.—A Reuter dispatch from Petrograd announces that the Russian government has notified neutral shipping that military reasons compel it to place mines off the Russian and Turkish coasts and ports in the Black Sea.

ALLIES' CAUSE LIBERTY, SAY FRENCH SAVANTS

Universities of France, Replying to Manifesto, Attack Idea of World Power, and Say Culture Is International, Not German.

Dr. A. G. de la Pradelle, professor of international law at the University of Paris, made public yesterday the official reply of the universities of France to the manifesto recently issued by the German universities.

This answer is addressed to all American universities and others in neutral countries through Dr. de la Pradelle as the representative of the French universities. The manifesto is from the universities of Lille, which "for obvious reasons could not be consulted." Lille is in territory at present occupied by the Germans.

Dr. de la Pradelle is the visiting French professor at Columbia University, and was honored at the last meeting of the Columbia University trustees with the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

The text of the manifesto, which is dated November 8, follows:

Case Against Germany.

"The German universities have just protested against the accusations made against their country upon the occasion of the war. The universities of France will limit themselves to submitting the following questions:

"Who wanted war?"

"Who strove to find means of conciliation during the two years of peace?"

"Who refused all proposals of conciliation emanating from England, Russia, France and Italy?"

"Who, at the very moment when the conflict seemed to have been averted, declared that it was a fortuitous opportunity had been reached for and awaited?"

"Who violated Belgian neutrality after having stood warrant for it?"

"Who, when it was evident that neutrality was but a word, that treaties are mere scraps of paper, and that in time of war 'one does what one can'?"

"Who holds as void those international conventions by which signatory powers agreed that in the conduct of war force should never be exerted barbarously or perfidiously, and that historic monuments, hospitals, scientific, artistic or religious structures should be spared excepting when used for military purposes by the enemy?"

"The universities of France, for their part, together with the allied armies, are defending the liberty of the world." The universities of Paris, Aix-Marseille, Clermont, Dijon, Grenoble, Lyon, Montpellier, Nancy, Poitiers, Rennes and Toulouse are named as signatories to this manifesto.

A. S. COCHRAN HELD UP BY THE GERMANS

Wealthy Young New Yorker Has American Diplomatic Dispatches.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Berlin, Dec. 9.—Alexander Smith Cochran, a wealthy young New Yorker, recently made an official American dispatch bearer between London and Berlin, held up at the Dutch frontier, according to advisers received by the American Ambassador.

Mr. Cochran, who is the son of the late William F. Cochran, of the Smith-Carpenter Company, of New York, is a member of the American diplomatic corps.

An investigation is being made to ascertain why the German authorities would not permit him to proceed. It is understood here that Mr. Cochran left London several days ago with diplomatic pouches. He is the eldest son of the late William F. Cochran, of the Smith-Carpenter Company, of New York, and is estimated at many million dollars.

The American Embassy at London recently selected him as an official courier to make regular trips from London to Berlin. He is a brother-in-law of Thomas Ewing, Jr., commissioner of Patents in Washington.

BRITONS SENTENCE TRAITOR TO DEATH

Ex-German Consul Aided Kaiser's Subjects to Rejoin Colors.

London, Dec. 9.—Nicholas Ahlers, former German Consul in Sunderland, was today convicted by the Durham Assizes of high treason and sentenced to death.

Ahlers, who was a naturalized British subject, was arrested soon after the outbreak of the war on the charge of having aided German reservists to rejoin their colors. He pleaded not guilty. The indictment was returned by the Durham Assizes by the government is shown by the fact that the Solicitor General, Sir Stanley Owen Buckmaster, personally conducted the prosecution.

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GERMAN MINES LAID ON FINNISH COAST

Turks Surrender Kurna, Giving Up Control of Rich District.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Dec. 10.—The Petrograd correspondent of "The Morning Post" telegraphs:

"Traffic across the Gulf of Bothnia has been closed, owing to the unsafe condition of the waters between the coast of Finland and Sweden, where the Germans have succeeded in sowing mines broadcast, which have sunk three Swedish vessels. The stoppage of this short cut for communication between Russia and England means twelve hours' delay."

Archange is still open, ice breakers have no difficulty in keeping the River Dwina open, and the sea itself normally does not freeze even around the coast until Christmas.

The correspondent of "The Morning Post" in Copenhagen transmits reports from Gothland that Swedish steamers have been ordered to leave the Gulf of Bothnia of Raumo, Finland. The news is fully substantiated that mines have been laid by the Germans to prevent the passage of Russians from the Gulf of Finland.

SERBIA REPEATS PLEDGE OF WAR

New Cabinet Says Struggle Will Be Fought to Victorious End.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Paris, Dec. 9.—Telegraphing from Nish, Serbia, the Havas Agency correspondent sends the following extract from the declaration of the new Serbian Cabinet, read before the Serbian Legislature to-day:

"Convinced that the entire Serbian people have resolved to defend their homes and their liberty to the end by a holy war, the royal government feels it to be its duty to give assent to the emancipation and the union of all our brothers deprived of their liberty, be they Serbians, Croats or Slavonians."

"The marvelous success which will crown this struggle will more than repay the tremendous sacrifices involved. In this war Serbia has no choice, and the struggle will continue to be waged with unshakable courage."

"As the enemy still remains on Serbian territory, the government cries to the people: Forward, with God's aid, against the enemy!"

The reading of this declaration was interrupted many times by enthusiastic outbursts from the assembled legislators.

CHOLERA FINDS GERMAN VICTIMS

Berlin Reports Thirty-six Cases in Empire During Last Month.

Rottterdam, Dec. 9.—The Berlin Board of Health, according to information reaching Rottterdam, reported thirty-six cases of cholera in Germany during November.

In Austria, especially in Galicia, the cholera is spreading rapidly. Eight hundred and forty-four cases and 331 deaths were reported during the first week of November. There were ninety deaths in Vienna. In Hungary, during the same week, there were 532 cases of cholera.

Germany is confronted every year at this season with the danger of the spread of cholera from the western provinces of Russia, and adopts strict measures to guard against contagion, particularly from persons who come down the Rivers Vistula and Bug on lumber rafts. The number of cholera cases in Germany last month was not abnormal.

Recent advices from Galicia were that the disease had appeared there, but that it probably would be checked by the isolation of the victims and the coming of cold weather.

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